



Expert will give talk on support of family caregivers

Special to the Democrat Published 6:54 p.m. ET Oct. 17, 2017



(Photo: Special to the Democrat)

University of Pittsburgh psychiatrist Richard Schulz, a leading expert on family caregiving, will speak Thursday on “Families Caring for an Aging America: Time for a National Policy” at Florida State University.

Schulz will also lead a panel discussion on family caregivers on Friday. The public is invited to both events.

Schulz has spent most of his career doing research and writing on adult development and aging. Much of his work has focused on the effects of disabling late-life illnesses on patients and their families.

Family members overwhelmingly shoulder the burden of looking after older Americans, and Schulz questions why families are left to manage this complex role on their own with little support. “Family caregivers are the backbone of the health care system for older adults,” Schulz said. “What’s wrong with this and how can we fix it?”

Schulz will give his FSU address at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the College of Medicine Auditorium. The Lux Quartet, a student musical group, will perform before his talk.

At 10 a.m. Friday, Schulz will participate in a panel discussion on caring for family members at Thomasville Road Baptist Church.

Joining Schulz on the panel will be Dr. Paul Katz, chair of geriatrics at the FSU College of Medicine; Carol Berkowitz, executive director of the Office of Public & Professional Guardians; and Regina E. Sofer, a care partner. Respite care will be provided during the panel discussion; for information, call 386-2778.

The talk and the panel discussion are sponsored by FSU’s Institute for Successful Longevity, FSU’s Road Scholars series, the Tallahassee Senior Center and the Alzheimer’s Project.

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